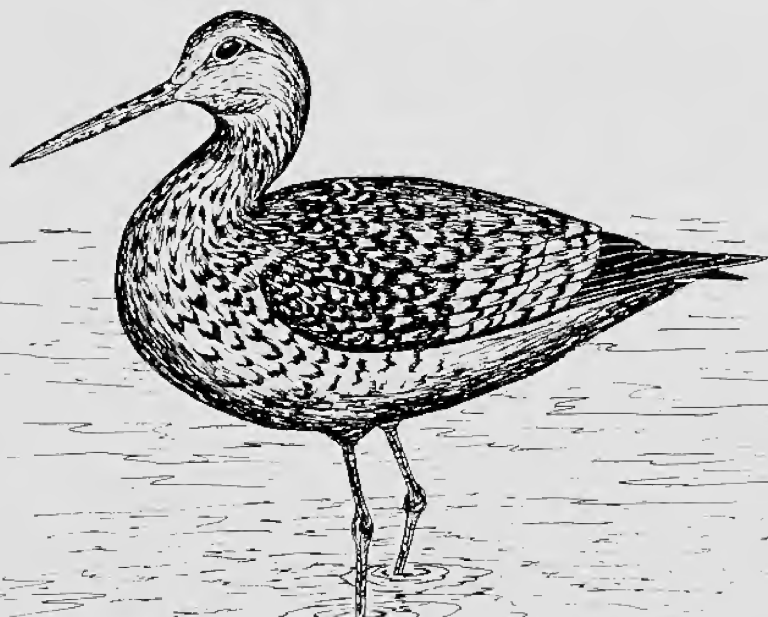


IOWA BIRD LIFE



L. DeVolder

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IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the American Goldfinch, designed State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publication of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; THE BULLETIN 1929-1930; IOWA BIRD LIFE beginning 1931.

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE

235 McCLELLAN BLVD.
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Report of the I.O.U. records committee for 1982

35

MICHAEL C. NEWLON
408 Wales Street
IOWA CITY, IA. 52240

Activities of the Committee during 1982.

The Records Committee published the "Official Checklist of Iowa Birds, 1982 Edition" (IBL 52:67-76). A new Field Checklist is in preparation. Both conform to the new A.O.U. names and taxonomic order. Two meetings were held and 36 records for 1982 were reviewed, in addition to a number of old records from the literature. The Committee recommended Peter C. Petersen for a second term on the Committee (1983-1989), and Barbara Wilson was nominated to fill the vacancy (1983-1988) created by Michael Newlon's resignation.

Changes in Status of Iowa Bird Species.

Since the publication of the Official Checklist, the following changes and additions have been made, through the end of 1982:

Bufflehead, *Bucephala albeola*: Regular I-S to Regular I-S N.

Gyr Falcon, *Falco rusticolus*: Hypothetical to Accidental I-S.

Sandhill Crane, *Grus canadensis*: Casual I-S N to Regular I-S N.

Mew Gull, *Larus canus*: added to list, Accidental I-P.

Great Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*: Accidental III to Accidental I-P.

Black-throated Blue Warbler, *Dendroica caerulescens*: Regular I-P to Regular I-S.

Yellow-throated Warbler, *Dendroica dominica*: Regular I-R to Regular I-P.

Pine Warbler, *Dendroica pinus*: Casual I-S to Regular I-S.

Blue Grosbeak, *Guiraca caerulea*: Regular I-P to Regular I-S N.

Red Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra*: Regular I-S to Regular I-S N?

Classification categories for species are described in the Official Checklist of Iowa Birds. Since the publication of this checklist in September, 1982, one species has been added to the list and the status of nine others has been raised. Let us hope that this trend will continue!

Records Evaluated by the Committee in 1982.

Thirty-six records were submitted to the Committee in 1982, up from 27 in 1981 and 24 in 1980. The fraction of records accepted remained constant at roughly two-thirds of those submitted. Accepted records were the following:

Brown Pelican, 18 Oct. 1982, Keokuk, Lee Co. (IBL 52:118). This is the fifth state record.

White-faced Ibis, 13, 18 May 1982, Forney Lake, Fremont Co., and 15 May 1982, Palo Alto Co. (IBL 52:54; 52:88).

Black Rail, 24 Apr, 1 May 1982, Hendrickson March, Story Co. (IBL 52:56).

Ruff, 8-12 Sep 1982, 4 mi. e of Tabor, Fremont Co. (IBL 52:121). This is the second state record.

Mew Gull, 19-31 Dec. 1982, Lock and Dam 14, Scott Co. (IBL 53, 45 & 46). This constitutes the first record for the state.

Great Black-backed Gull, 14 Jul 1982, West Okoboji Lake, Dickinson Co. (IBL 52:127). This is the second state record.

Burrowing Owl, 13 Apr 1982, 1½ mi. s of Archer, O'Brien Co. (IBL 52:58).

Chestnut-collared Longspur, 4 Apr 1982, NW Muscatine Co. near Johnson Co. line (IBL 52:63). This is the first acceptably-documented state record; there are several old records prior to 1940.

Smith's Longspur, 21 Mar 1982, 4 mi. n of Red Oak, Montgomery Co.; 27 Mar 1982,

Johnson-Muscatine Co. line 6 mi. s of Route 6; 28 Mar 1982, 2 mi. n, 2 mi. w of Red Oak, Montgomery Co.; 30 Mar 1982, n of Lone Tree, Johnson Co.; 1 Apr 1982, 3 mi. e of Polk City, Polk Co.; 9 Apr 1982, 5 mi. s of Nichols, Muscatine Co.; 10 Apr 1982, n of Bettendorf, Scott Co.; 16 Apr 1982, NE Muscatine Co., 2¼ mi. so of Route 6, near county line; 18 Apr 1982, Larson's Marsh, Story Co. (IBL 52:63).

House Finch, 3 Jun 1982, Pocahontas, Pocahontas Co.; 27 Jul-4 Aug 1982, Perry, Dallas Co.; 26 Jul 1982, Ottumwa, Wapello Co.; late Sep 1982, Mason City, Cerro Gordo Co. (IBL 52:94; 52:125). These constitute the first records for the state. Hoary Redpoll, 23-30 Jan 1982, Pine Lake, Hardin Co.; 2 Mar 1982, Laurens, Pocahontas Co. (IBL 52:28).

Note that these records add three species to the Official Checklist, a reflection of the increased pace and accuracy of fieldwork in the state.

Records not accepted by the Committee are listed below. In many cases the Committee felt that the identification made was probably correct, but that it was not supported by sufficiently detailed documentation to make the record certain. Prairie Falcon, 30 Jul 1982, n of Luther, Boone Co. The sighting was very brief, the observer expressed some doubt, the date would be the earliest on record, and the location is at the extreme eastern edge of this species range in Iowa.

Yellow Rail, 13 Jul 1982, Union Slough NWR, Kossuth Co. It was felt that the description was not sufficiently detailed and was written too long after the observation, which would be the earliest summer record for this species.

Black Rail, 6 May 1982, Iowa City, Johnson Co. (IBL 52:56). This record, of a calling but unseen bird, was not accepted because of the observer's lack of previous experience with the call of this species, and because of the difficulty of conveying an adequate description of vocalizations without making a recording.

Poor-will, 22 Jun 1982, 2 mi. n of Waubonsie State Park, Fremont Co. This record, of a bird identified by voice only, was not accepted because of the rarity of the species in Iowa (no currently-acceptable records), the difficulty of describing bird vocalizations, and the need for tangible evidence before adding a species to the state list.

Water Pipit, 27 Feb. 1982, Pocahontas, Pocahontas Co. (IBL 52:28). The Committee felt that the description was not sufficiently detailed to support the record of this species at such an unusual time and in atypical habitat.

Prairie Warbler, 5 Sep 1982, Hickory Hill Park, Iowa City, Johnson Co. (IBL 52:125). The bird was seen briefly and not well, and the description was not very detailed.

Black-headed Grosbeak, 10 May, Amana, Iowa Co.; 20 May 1982, Rush Lake, Palo Alto Co. (both IBL 52:61); 24 Jul 1982, Little Swan Lake, Dickinson Co. (IBL 52:94); 29 Jul 1982, near Decorah, Winneshiek Co.; 23 Nov. 1982, 2 mi. e of Elkhart, Polk Co. (IBL 52:124). The Committee felt that some or all of these birds could have been Black-headed Grosbeaks, and or, perhaps more likely, hybrid or intergrade Black-headed x Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. However, none of the reports was sufficiently detailed to enable the Committee to decide upon this difficult question. Birders are urged to read Peterjohn's article on grosbeak identification (IBL 53:22-23) and to describe in detail (or even better, photograph) all features of suspected Black-headed or hybrid grosbeaks, not just a few field marks.

Smith's Longspur, 6 Apr. 1982, 5 mi. s of Nichols, Muscatine Co. (IBL 52:63). It was felt that the description of these birds did not unequivocally rule out other

Hoary Redpoll, 27 Jan. 1982, Pocahontas, Pochontas Co. (IBL 52:28). Several diagnostic features were not described, notably the size and shape of the bill and the pattern of the undertail coverts. The Committee also felt that it would be best to take a conservative position on acceptance of records for this difficult-to-identify species.

The Committee would like to thank all those who took the time and trouble to submit documentations of their sightings, and those outside consultants (Jon Dunn, Paul Lehman, Dennis Paulseon, Bruce Peterjohn, Terry Wahl, and Claudia Wilds) who gave of their time and expertise.

CONVENTION



I. O. U. SPRING MEETING, 1983

MARY LOU PETERSEN

335 McClellan Blvd.

DAVENPORT, IOWA

The sixty-first annual convention of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union convened in Shenandoah, Iowa on April 23 and 24, 1983. The meeting was held in the Tall Corn Motel in Shenandoah. On Friday evening there was a social gathering, refreshments, displays and field trip sign-ups.

On Saturday morning field trips were scheduled from 7:00-10:15 a.m. At 10:30 a.m. the first workshop session began. There were three concurrent workshops: Sparrow Identification given by Ray Cummins, Shorebird Identification given by Mike Newlon, and Nest Finding and Study given by Barb Wilson. At 11:30 a.m. the second workshop session began. This session consisted of Bird Songs and Calls given by Joe Schaufenbuel, Hawk Identification given by Jim Dinsmore and Flycatcher Identification given by Peter Petersen.

After the break for lunch there was a brief paper session. Barb Wilson discussed the Identification of Meadowlarks, showing slides of birds which exhibited characteristics of both species. The conclusion was that sight identification requires a combination of characteristics. Mike Newlon then presented a suggestion to begin an Iowa atlas of breeding birds.

Following the paper session the annual business meeting was brought to order by President Ross Silcock. Peter Petersen moved that the minutes be approved as published. It was seconded by Margaret Brooks and it was passed. Hank Zaletel presented the treasurer's report. (The report follows the attendance list). He reported a balance of \$4,666.17. This is much better than the previous year. The report had been audited by Joe Schaufenbuel. Carol Newlon moved that the report be accepted, Barb Wilson seconded the motion and it passed.

President Silcock presented the Review Committee's recommendations which were approved by the Executive Council. The proposals were discussed and voted on as follows:

1. Ed Crocker moved that a committee be appointed to redraft the constitution of the IOU. Rick Hollis seconded the motion and it passed.

2. Tom Kent moved that the nominations committee be appointed at the spring meeting and it would report at the fall meeting. This report will be distributed with the IBL. Barb Wilson seconded the motion and it carried.

3. After explanation by Carl Bendorf, Jim Dinsmore moved that the IOU

develop affiliation with regional groups with interest in ornithology. Rick Hollis seconded the motion and it carried.

4. After explanation by Peter Petersen, Carol Newlon moved that the constitution be changed to allow for an editorial board for the group's publications. It was seconded by Barb Wilson and the motion carried.

5. After discussion Barb Wilson moved that there be an effort to produce a newsletter. The motion was seconded by Carol Newlon and it carried.

6. James Dinsmore moved that the IOU promote projects in ornithology. Carol Newlon seconded the motion and it carried.

7. Peter Petersen moved that the IOU take immediate and continuing steps to increase our endowment base. Rick Hollis seconded the motion and it carried.

8. Margaret Brooke moved that the vice-president be responsible for planning the programs at the spring and fall meetings. Larry Farmer seconded the motion and it passed.

9. President Silcock stated that the ninth recommendation of the review committee has already been implemented, that the Executive Council of the IOU meet annually at a time other than at the annual meeting.

10. Ed Crocker suggested that the IOU have a second vice-president in charge of membership and that this change should be in the constitution.

Mike Newlon moved that the IOU Constitution Revision Committee place a notice in the IBL for recommendations for the constitution. It was seconded and carried after some lengthy discussion.

Rick Hollis discussed the Iowa Birding Hot Line. He told the group that the hot line receives 40-50 calls per week on the average. He mentioned that few callers leave messages and that if a bird is seen by those who call in, it would be helpful to let the hot line know that the bird was still at the location.

Tom Kent reported about two concerns he has as field reports editor. He told the group that there is a lack of reports from large areas of the state. He wants reports on migration and not just rare birds. He also told the group that rare birds need documentation sent to the field reports editor not just put on the hot line. Material on the hot line is not sent to the field reports editor. Observers must not assume that anything on the hot line is automatically sent on to the field reports editor. He also asked the group who would be interested in participating in a state-wide feeder survey. This would be a report of what is seen at feeders for a two week block of time. Twenty people indicated interest. Tom Kent thanked those who send material in for the field notes. He also said accidental species need to be written up for the field reports.

Jim Dinsmore remarked that the group owes thanks to Carl Bendorf and Rick Hollis for their work on the birding hot line.

Peter Petersen commented that he needs notes on rare birds seen and pictures if possible. He reported that there are 10 federal bird survey routes open.

Mike Newlon moved that the IOU explore the possibility of creating a state-wide breeding bird atlas. Rick Hollis seconded the motion and it carried. President Silcock adjourned the meeting to Sunday afternoon.

The banquet was held in the Kernel Room of the Tall Corn Motel. Following the buffet meal, Dan Varland of Iowa Western Community College in Clarinda, presented a slide program on his work rehabilitating and trapping raptors in southwest Iowa. The program was informative and very enjoyable. Mr. Varland had a young, docile, curious, and altogether well behaved baby Great Horned Owl with him.

On Sunday morning the group spread out over the surrounding area to look for birds. The field trips lasted until 10:15 a.m. The third session of workshops followed Shorebird Identification and Flycatcher Identification were repeated

and Tom Kent presented a workshop on photography. From 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., the final workshop session was held. Tom Kent presented Spring Warbler Identification, Jim Dinsmore and Mike Newlon repeated their presentations. Following the workshops and the noon meal, the business meeting was resumed. President Silcock asked the well fed, somewhat sleepy group, if they would be interested in a fall meeting devoted to gulls. The show of hands supported the idea.

Election of officers took place. The presented slate of extremely well qualified and intensely interested birders was approved by the group. Peter Petersen moved that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot. It was seconded by Don Johnson and it carried. The slate of officers is: Mike Newlon, president; Carl Bendorf, vice-president; Francis Moore, secretary; Hank Zaletel, treasurer; Ross Silcock, Ray Cummins, Beth Proescholdt and Marlys Huff, executive council.

New president Mike Newlon announced that the fall meeting will be at Iowa City. He has recently reported the dates will be October 22 and 23. Mike also called on the group to give a round of thanks to Ross Silcock and the Shenandoah group for the interesting meeting. The long standing tradition of a resolutions committee and its report were not observed this meeting. The meeting was adjourned and the bird list compiled.

Birds Observed

Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron (JimS), Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Sora, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Lesser Golden Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, Upland Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher (F.M.), Common Snipe, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Common Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Wood-Pewee (at Waubonsie S.P. by C.S.), Eastern Phoebe, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Gray-cheeked Thrush (B.W.), Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Cardinal, Rufous-sided Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

— 135 species. Twelve (12) species were seen on Saturday and not on Sunday. They

were: Cinnamon Teal, Hooded Merganser, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Bonaparte's Gull, Herring Gull, Eastern Screech-Owl, Empidonax sp. Flycatcher, Orange-crowned Warbler. Two species were seen on Friday and not on Saturday or Sunday. They were: Little Blue Heron (R.M., Joe S., F.M.) and Piping Plover (R.M., F.M., R.C., R.S.).

Registered Attendance — 121

AMES: Barnett Cook, Jim, Steve and Mark Dinsmore, Jack Dodd, Kraig Downs, Dave and Mary Newhouse, Michael Nolan, Steve Richards and Joe Schaufenbuel.

BOONEVILLE: Eugene and Eloise Armstrong.

CEDAR RAPIDS: Roberta Oppedahl.

CENTERVILLE: Bill and Marjorie Heusinkveld, and Ray Cummins.

CLINTON: Jacqueline Gardner.

COLO: Hank and Linda Zaletel.

CORNING: Marney Beemer, and Almira Turner.

DAVENPORT: Peter and Mary Lou Petersen.

DES MOINES: Dwight and Margaret Brooke, John and Maggie Hoogerheide, Barbara Miller, Dick and Pauly Mooney, and Dennis Thompson.

EMERSON: Ed Greenwood.

ESTERVILLE: Harold, Sallie, and Katie White.

FORT DODGE: Mina Landes, and Mary Sand.

HAMBURG: Fitzhugh and Hazel Diggs.

HASTINGS: Wauneta Meadows, Tacye Pederson, and Barbara Wilson.

HINTON: Patricia Williams.

IOWA CITY: Carl Bendorf, Rick Hollis, Tom Kent, Cal and Bernie Knight, Mike and Carol Newlon, Jim, Donna and Johanna Sandrock.

LAKE MILLS: Sibyl Sand.

LAURENS: Ron Harms.

LISCOMB: Beth and Mark Proescholdt.

MALVERN: Ross Silcock.

MARION: Lucile Liljedahl.

MARSHALLTOWN: Marlys Huff, Carol McMillan, Ed and Betty Savage.

OSKALOOSA: Peter and Nancy Fibley.

OTTUMWA: Don and Elaine Johnson.

PAULLINA: Irwin and Mary Heusinkveld.

RUSSELL: Robert and Virginia Bell.

SEYMOUR: Dick and Charlotte Scott.

SHENANDOAH: Bill and Joan Castle, Barbara Cunningham, Chuck and Jean Gee, Albert and Bonnie Hickey, Con and Vera Jennings, John and Doris McNeilly, Ruth Phipps, Don and Jean Priebe, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Schlick, Mary Spears, Mary Beth Vaughn, and Betty Walters.

SIOUX CITY: Steve Johnson, Bob Livermore, David Pierce and Jerry Probst.

STATE CENTER: Judy Levings, Jim and Dorothy Maish.

STORM LAKE: Edwin and Virginia Crocker.

TABOR: Grace Swanson.

UNION: Phyllis Harris, and Romona Sommerlot.

WATERLOO: Lowell and Eleanor Miller, Francis Moore, Bob and Betsy Myers.

WESTFIELD: Larry and Carol Farmer.

ROCK ISLAND, ILL.: Larry and Judy Linder.

BELLEVUE, NEB.: Ruth Green, Betty Grenon.

OMAHA, NEB.: Tanya Bray, Jim and Sandy Kovanda.

TALMADGE, NEB.: Leola Badberg, Marjorie Birkmann.

SPRING CONVENTION

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I.O.U. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

April 7, 1983

Balance on Hand May 7, 1982 \$1,348.58

RECEIPTS:

Memberships	\$4,503.00	
"Birding Areas of Iowa" Book	245.94	
Checklists	40.44	
Decals	3.90	
Patch	12.70	
Issues of Iowa Bird Life	190.24	
Annotated Lists	6.75	
Sales of Donated Materials	94.50	
Field Report Reprint	2.00	
Balance from Spring IOU Meeting	65.00	
Balance from Fall IOU Meeting	208.35	
Donations	2,608.00	
Jud Strickland Memorials	191.00	
Interest	107.88	8,279.70
Total Receipts and Balance Forward		9,628.28

DISBURSEMENTS:

Iowa Bird Life:		
Printing — Monticello Express	\$4,454.61	
Editor's Fee	100.00	
Editor's Telephone	8.50	
Envelopes	106.35	
Postage:		
Second Class Permit IBL	150.00	
Editor	18.50	
Treasurer	19.89	
Printing:		
Fall Meeting	10.05	
Spring Meeting	10.00	
No. 10 Envelope	32.91	
Member Survey	10.90	
Fund Appeal	8.40	
Smith Longspur	3.00	
Misc. Expenses:		
Checking Service Charge	5.00	
Membership Refund	2.00	
Member Returned Check	12.00	
Overcharge to Editor	10.00	4,962.11
Balance at Midland Financial, Checking Account		4,666.17
Deposits — Midland Financial — Repurchase Agreement (Includes Scholarship Fund and Life Membership Fund)		
	\$5,902.33	
(Interest included in above earned during the year \$529.60)		

IOWA BIRDLINE

Receipts:

Balance	\$791.73	
Donations	23.00	
Interest	39.39	854.12

Disbursements:

Monthly Charge	252.60	252.60
Balance		601.52

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

First I would like to thank the members of the IOU for the privilege of serving as its President; I only hope that I can justify your confidence. But what I want to do in this message is to ask for your help.

A year ago the IOU faced imminent bankruptcy. As a result of our recent fund drive we are now solvent, but the underlying problems that caused this threat are not yet solved. Clearly our most pressing task is to increase our membership so as to create a stable financial base. It seems to me that this can only be done by broadening the appeal of the IOU and by increasing its attractiveness to potential members. I would hope that the IOU could become, through its meetings, activities, and publications, an organization in which all who are interested in Iowa's birds could pursue their interests on terms of mutual respect, whether they are backyard bird feeders, listers, or scientifically-inclined amateur or professional ornithologists. To improve and extend the IOU to this point is beyond the energies of even the most dedicated set of officers acting on their own: without the active participation of its members, the IOU will go nowhere. With the help of Jim Sandrock and the other members of the Review Committee, we have made a good beginning, but unless the initiatives of the Review Committee are carried through, we will be back where we started. We are now engaged in carrying out the suggestions of the Review Committee. These include formation of a Publicity and Membership Committee, a Projects Committee, and an Editorial Board for *Iowa Bird Life* and the future Newsletter. I would appreciate hearing from any member interested in working with one of these bodies. And if any member thinks that the IOU ought to be doing something that is presently is not, and is interested in taking charge of seeing that this situation is remedied, please get in touch with me or with any members of the Executive Council, so that we may discuss it at the fall meeting.

Finally: this message has largely dealt with the needs of the IOU and what must be done to meet them. While we need to work on this, and work hard, let's not forget to go out on a few mornings and watch the birds. — Michael C. Newlon, 408 Wales Street, Iowa City, Ia. 52240

BANDING REPORT



1982 Banding Report for Iowa
IRENE LAYTON, OSKLOOSA

Thirteen Iowa bird banders reported to us, there were 3 banders sending no report, Gladys Black, Ruth Pippis and Betty Walters. A total of 144 species and 16,156 birds were banded.

The Ayres had a grand total this year, with their 3 sub-permitters. We have no new banders this year, at least they didn't send any report.

Following is an alphabetical list of the Iowa banders who reported their 1982 results to us:

Bander	Species	Birds
Charles & Darleen Ayres, Ottumwa	110	7,288
Dick & Judy Bierman, Cherokee	17	118
Gene & Marilyn Burns, Jamaica	24	1,100

BANDING REPORT

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Genevieve DeLong, Lamoni	70	531
Hazel — Fitzhugh Diggs, Hamburg	96	1,726
Paul & Mary Felsing, Knoxville	48	559
Iowa Conservation Commission, State of Iowa	17	3,399
Rene & Christyna Laubach, Des Moines	34	304
Keith — Irene Layton, Oskaloosa	29	151
Darwin D. Mosman, Elkhart	9	394
David A. Newhouse, Boone	10	29
Peter C. Petersen, Davenport	38	252
Marie Spears, Shenandoah	24	302
	<u>144</u>	<u>16,156</u>

Birds Banded In Iowa In 1982

American Bittern	1	Blue Jay	204
Canada Goose	933	Black-capped Chickadee	211
Wood Duck	2,306	Tufted Titmouse	25
Green-winged Teal	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
Mallard	99	White-breasted Nuthatch	45
Blue-winged Teal	26	Brown Creeper	23
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Bewick's Wren	1
Broad-winged Hawk	1	House Wren	127
Red-tailed Hawk	4	Winter Wren	5
Am. Kestrel	355	Marsh Wren	1
Am. Woodcock	2	Golden-crowned Kinglet	40
Mourning Dove	22	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	204
Black-billed Cuckoo	22	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	13	Eastern Bluebird	343
Eastern Screech-Owl	8	Veery	20
Great Horned Owl	4	Gray-cheeked Thrush	39
Barred Owl	2	Swainson's Thrush	131
Common Nighthawk	1	Hermit Thrush	23
Chuck-will's-widow	2	Wood Thrush	35
Chimney Swift	3	Am. Robin	229
Belted Kingfisher	2	Gray Catbird	352
Red-headed Woodpecker	28	N. Mockingbird	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	19	Brown Thrasher	93
Yellow-billed Sapsucker	5	Cedar Waxwing	33
Downy Woodpecker	100	Loggerhead Shrike	3
Hairy Woodpecker	18	European Starling	9
N. Flicker	31	White-eyed Vireo	20
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	Bell's Vireo	3
Eastern Wood-Pewee	35	Solitary Vireo	23
Yellow-billed Flycatcher	34	Yellow-throated Vireo	10
Acadian Flycatcher	19	Warbling Vireo	5
Willow Flycatcher	43	Philadelphia Vireo	32
Least Flycatcher	124	Red-eyed Vireo	180
Eastern Phoebe	15	Blue-winged Warbler	54
Great Crested Flycatcher	21	Golden-winged Warbler	11
Eastern Kingbird	42	Tennessee Warbler	965
Purple Martin	317	Orange-crowned Warbler	141
N. Rough-winged Swallow	3	Nashville Warbler	406
Bank Swallow	57	Northern Parula	14
Cliff Swallow	480	Yellow Warbler	6
Barn Swallow	20	Chestnut-sided Warbler	63

Magnolia Warbler	86	Chipping Sparrow	67
Cape May Warbler	3	Clay-colored Sparrow	7
Blk-thrtd Blue Warbler	1	Field Sparrow	83
Yellow-rumped Warbler	106	Vesper Sparrow	11
Blk-thrtd Green Warbler	37	Lark Sparrow	2
Blackburnian Warbler	11	Savannah Sparrow	17
Palm Warbler	5	Grasshopper Sparrow	18
Bay-breasted Warbler	98	Sharp-tailed Sparrow	3
Blackpoll Warbler	6	Fox Sparrow	30
Black-and-white Warbler ...	45	Song Sparrow	15
Am. Redstart	70	Lincoln's Sparrow	49
Prothonotary Warbler	1	Swamp Sparrow	50
Worm-eating Warbler	4	White-throated Sparrow	179
Ovenbird	173	White-crowned Sparrow	14
Northern Waterthrush	27	Harris' Sparrow	52
Louisiana Waterthrush	3	Dark-eyed Junco	868
Kentucky Warbler	13	Red-winged Blackbird	24
Mourning Warbler	44	Eastern Meadowlark	6
Common Yellowthroat	118	Western Meadowlark	6
Hooded Warbler	2	Rusty Blackbird	2
Wilson's Wabler	51	Common Grackle	66
Canada Warbler	18	Brown-headed Cowbird	40
Yellow-breasted Chat	7	Orchard Oriole	2
Summer Tanager	1	Northern Oriole	98
Scarlet Tanager	13	House Finch	1
N. Cardinal	191	Purple Finch	1,019
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	177	Common Redpoll	283
Indigo Bunting	108	Pine Siskin	241
Dickcissel	11	Am. Goldfinch	1,563
Rufous-sided Towhee	16	House Sparrow	8
Am. Tree Sparrow	520	Total	16,156

I.O.U. Materials

Available from Mrs. Patricia Layton, Librarian, 1580 Linmar Dr., Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52402.

Birding Areas of Iowa — Peter C. Petersen, ed—1979—\$4.85 postage paid.

Iowa Bird Life—back issues—\$2.00 each, postage paid or inquire.

Available from Hank Zaletel, Treas., 715 West St., Colo, Ia. 50056.

Reporting Obs. of Birds Seen in Iowa, T. H. Kent—from I.B.L.—1981—\$2.00 postage paid.

Checklist of Iowa Birds (1982 I.B.L.) \$2.00 postage paid.

I.O.U. Decals (for outside windows)—\$.70 postage paid.

I.O.U. Arm Patches—\$1.70 postage paid.

I.O.U. Field Checklists—1983—one .25 postage paid; 6-.60 postage paid; 12-\$1.00 postage paid; 25-\$1.60 postage paid; 50-\$3.00 postage paid, sample enclosed.

All checks payable to The Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

Announcement of Fall Meeting

The fall meeting of the I.O.U. will be held October 22-23, 1983, at Iowa City. It will be held at the Ambassador Inn, a motel adjacent to I-80. Details of the program and registration forms will be included in the September issue of Iowa Bird Life.

Mew Gull at Lock and Dam 14

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On December 19, 1982 at 9:40 AM at Lock and Dam 14, Scott County, while doing the Davenport Christmas Bird Count, Tom Staudt, Don and Jean Moeller, and I found an unusual gull sitting on the ice in the backwater area above the new lock at Lock and Dam 14 (see photos). It was slightly smaller (1-2 inches) than an adult Ring-billed Gull in the same field of view. We immediately noticed that the bird had a gray wash on the top of the head extending down on to the neck. We also noted that the underparts, although nearly white, were grayer than the Ring-bill. The bill was thin and straight (less bulbous at the tip than the Ring-bill) and dark at the tip shading to yellow-gray in the proximal two-thirds. The eye was dark without evident white crescents. The gray of the head extended just in front of and below the eye and covered the top and back of the head and upper neck with a crescent-like extension to the sides of the neck. The legs and feet were dusky yellow-green compared to the bright yellow of the Ring-bill and pink of the nearby Herring Gulls. When flushed, and later when seen flying over the lock, the mantle was medium gray (distinctly darker than the adult Ring-bill) and the black of the wing tip lacked white between it and the gray proximal wing feathers. The trailing edge of the secondaries and inner primaries was white. There was a small white mirror on the leading edge near the tip of the first two primaries which could be seen from above and below. The undersurface of the wing was white except for the black tip formed by the outer primaries. The tail was white except for a narrow broken subterminal black band which was difficult to see except when the bird was close and at an appropriate angle.

We were uncertain of the identification. After making detailed notes we found that the field guides lacked enough detail to help us. At noon, at Pete Petersen's home, using the description and photos in Grant (1982) we mistakenly identified the bird as a second winter Laughing Gull. After lunch, with the Petersen's group in tow, we found the bird again and photographed it. The bird was seen by many others during the next week and last seen on December 31 by Francis Moore.

Michael Newlon, in reviewing the photographs and documentations for the Records Committee, made the identification of Mew Gull. He excluded Laughing Gull on the basis of head, bill, and body shape, mirror on the wing tip, and bill and leg color (should be all dark in Laughing). Retrospectively, the differences in shape are obvious, but all of the primary observers fell into the same trap. Mew Gull had not been seriously considered because of its rarity and because Grant (1982) illustrates the Common (Mew) Gull of Europe, *Larus canus canus*, which has no black tail band in second winter plumage. The Alaskan race, *L. c. brachyrhynchus*, which winters south to California, has a black tail band in second winter.

The photographs and documentations were subsequently sent to Jon Dunn of Santa Barbara, California, and Bruce Peterjohn of Westerville, Ohio. They agreed with Newlon on a positive identification of Mew Gull. Arguments listed by the reviewers favoring Mew Gull over Ring-billed Gull, the only other serious alternative, included: (1) small size compared to nearby Ring-billed Gull (although it was noted that small Ring-bills do occur); (2) large dark eye (pale in Ring-bill); (3) dusky wash to head and neck (rather than brown streaking); (4) gray mantle (paler in Ring-bill); (5) dark unringed bill; (6) broad white trailing edge to secondaries and tertials; (7) black of greater primary coverts forming a double black bar effect to the upper wing tip; and (8) relative large size of white mirror in first two primaries (absent or small on first primary of Ring-bill).

The likelihood of Mew Gull occurring in Iowa appears to be remote. There are no records from any of the adjacent states except Minnesota, where an adult was observed on an island in Lake Superior on 19 September 1982 (Pieper 1982).

The Mew Gull, or Common Gull as it is known in Europe, nests in the

arctic and subarctic from Eastern Europe to Alaska and Western Canada. It winters south to California and the Mediterranean. There are scattered records from the East Coast of United States which are likely of the European race, *L. c. canus*. Records from central North America are exceedingly few. Two specimens of *L. c. brachyrhynchus* were obtained in Ontario on Lake Ontario, the first an adult male in winter plumage on 24 October 1967 and the second a first year female on 28 November 1967 (Andrie and Axtell 1969). A third Ontario record was of an adult on Lake Huron on 30 November 1979 (Am. Birds 34:269). There were June records from Churchill, Manitoba, in 1978 and 1979 (Am. Birds 32:333-334, 1177) and a March record of a first year bird in Denver, Colorado, in 1980 (Am. Birds 34:801).

The Iowa record of a Mew Gull is in line with the general increase of vagrant gulls in the Midwest. Documentation and photographs allowed the identification of an unusual looking gull even though the observers failed to make the correct identification. One should be aware, however, that the same type of evidence may negate an identification such as has occurred with recent reports of Thayer's Gull in Iowa.

References

- Andrie, R. F., and H. H. Axtell. 1969. Mew Gulls in Ontario. *Wilson Bull.* 81:211-213.
Grant, P. J. 1982. *Gulls: A Guide to Identification*. Vermillion, South Dakota: Buteo Books.
Pieper, B. 1982. A Lake Superior "pelagic" trip--Minnesota's first Mew Gull. *Loon* 54:247-248.



Mew Gull, 19 Dec 1982, Lock and Dam 14, T. H. Kent.

FIELD REPORTS
SPRING 1983

Thomas H. Kent, Field Reports Editor
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WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS (JPSa)

The spring of 1983 was one of the snowiest, wettest, and cloudiest in many years. March precipitation occurred on 15 days and totaled 150 percent from the norm; cloudy days averaged 23 over the state; sunshine was 30 percent less than normal, with fog frequent and dense. While the month began with deceptively mild weather and high temperatures (81 degrees at Des Moines and Keosauqua on 3 March), the temperatures dropped steadily to a low of -2 degrees at Sibley on 22 March. The 25 to 27 March snowstorm ended the month with several western counties receiving over 20 inches (27.8 at Sidney; 23.4 at Sioux Center). The March 1983 snowfall was the greatest since 1965. The snow soon melted with consequent high stream flows.

The cold, cloudy, snowy April (third snowiest and fourth coldest in the Twentieth Century) continued the weather trend begun in March. Temperatures through 20 April averaged 7.5 degrees subnormal--the coldest April since 1960. The latter third of the month saw warmer temperatures and dry ground. Rain and the typical spring violent weather was delayed until May, which, like the previous two months, was wet, cloudy, and cold. Temperatures for May were far below normal; 19 of the first 23 days were overcast, and sunshine was at a premium.

The weather for the period undoubtedly affected the spring migration of warblers and other passerines--a sharp contrast to the mild February and early March weather which encouraged the early migration of waterfowl.

GENERAL TRENDS

The February waterfowl migration led to an unspectacular continuation in March. Longspurs, which were more evident than usual during the winter, were even more evident in March and April. Shorebird migration was patchy and less evident than usual with no large concentrations of pectorals and yellowlegs. The cold weather of April and May delayed the warbler migration and held the warblers almost continuously from 7 to 21 May; over 20 species were easily found in a day in E Iowa during this period, and one group found an outstanding 18 species in SW Iowa on 19 May (BLW, WRS).

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Two species new to the state were reported (Vermillion Flycatcher and Great-tailed Grackle), both of which were expected to occur sooner or later. Other rare accidentals included Chestnut-collared Longspur (2nd documented record), Purple Gallinule (6th modern record), House Finch (5th and 6th records), and Whimbrel (13th and 14th records). Smith's Longspur turned up in numbers again this year. These records along with those for 5 other species will be evaluated by the Records Committee.

Casual species included Yellow Rail (3), King Rail (3), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Prairie Warbler, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Sandhill Crane, recently moved from casual to regular, was encountered at 3 locations.

Among regular species, some of the more unusual findings were a possible light-phase Western Grebe, a Mute Swan, lingering Northern Goshawks, an early Wilson's Phalarope, 5 Glaucous Gulls, Common Barn-Owls at 3 locations, and Summer Tanagers at 3 northerly locations.

Exotics included a Ringed Turtle-Dove.

SPECIES DATA (* = documented)

Common Loon: 8 late sightings were scattered throughout May, the latest

30 May at Willow Sl. (BLW).

Pied-billed Grebe: The earliest was at Forney L. on 5 Mar (JK and SK fide TB); a peak of 50 was at Willow Sl. on 22 Apr (BLW).

Horned Grebe: Singles on 5 Mar at Hendrickson M. (PM, BPr, MPr, PH) and 20 Mar at Cone M. (TK) were early. There were 8 reports of 1 to 3 birds in Apr, and 13 were nw of Cherokee on 13 Apr (MBre).

Eared Grebe: 1 to 6 were reported from 7 W and C Iowa locations ranging from 7 Apr at Little Wall L. (Doug Sheeley fide JD) to 19 May at Folsom L. (TB, SK, BPa); 5 were at Goose L., Clinton Co., in E Iowa on 13 Apr (PP, LL).

Western Grebe: A possible light-phase bird was at Cone M. on 5 May (*JPSa), and 2 dark-phase birds were at Forney L. on 19 May (TB et al.).

American White Pelican: 2 at Hendrickson M. (JD, SD) and 25 at Clear L. (Jim Wahl fide JLH) on 16 Apr were the earliest. W Iowa peaks were 900 at Riverton A. on 24 Apr (BLW) and 200 at Silver L., Dickinson Co., on 31 May (DCH); 100 were at Hendrickson M. in C Iowa on 18 Apr (HZ); and 75 were at Coralville Res. in E Iowa on 18 Apr (TJS).

Double-crested Cormorant: 7 flocks of 30 to 250 were noted across the state from 13 Apr to 19 May.

American Bittern: Singles were reported from 7 locations from 1 to 28 May. Were they that scarce or not reported?

Least Bittern: Singles at 6 locations and 4 at Sweet M. on 26 May (JPSc) is about par for this species.

Great Blue Heron: 50 birds, 200 nests, and building activity were noted at Sabula on 19 Mar (PP). On 10 Apr 26 birds were seen in Clay and O'Brien counties (RVH).

Great Egret: The earliest were 7 at Cone M. on 16 Apr (JPSa), and the peak was 13 at Coralville Res. on 21 May (TK).

Little Blue Heron: Adults were at Riverton A. on 22 Apr (RKM, FM) and Coralville Res. on 14 and 21 May (TJS, TK, CJB).

Cattle Egret: There were 15 reports, most with 1 to 3 birds, from 15 Apr to 29 May. One flock of 16 was in Polk Co. on 13 May (RT). This species can no longer be considered very unusual in Iowa.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Flocks of 2 to 17 were reported from 5 locations.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Singles were at Riverton A. (JPSa) and Hendrickson M. (PM) on 24 Apr, at Sweet M. on 10 May (RKM), and Smith Sl. on 20 May (Mike Brown fide JD).

Tundra Swan: 110 were at New Albin in the NE corner of Iowa on 21 Mar (JPSc). Others included 4 at Ventura M. in NC Iowa on 21 Mar (JLH), 2 at Little Wall L. on 28 Mar (Doug Sheeley fide JD), 4 at Colo on 4 to 10 Apr (BPr, HZ), and 1 at Coralville Res. on 18 Apr (TJS). One at Bays Branch on 1 Mar was said to have overwintered (MRM).

Mute Swan: A relatively tame bird at L. Conatoma in Mason City from 19 Mar to mid-Apr was photographed (*JPP).

Greater White-fronted Goose: 26 in Harrison Co. on 3 Mar (DBi) hardly seemed early this year; 1,700 were at Forney L. on 31 Mar (TB, SK, BPa).

Snow Goose: 150,000 were at Forney L. on 1 Mar (MRM).

Ross' Goose: 8 were found at Willow Sl. on 22 Mar (TB, m.ob.) and 1 was there on 31 Mar (TB, SK).

Wood Duck: 52 males were seen near Liscomb and Grammar Grove P. on 23 May (RRS); 23 birds were seen at Amana on 13 May (CJB).

American Black Duck: 1 was late at Goose L., Clinton Co., on 16 May (PP, LL).

Cinnamon Teal: A pair in SW Fremont Co. on 5 Apr (*SED) may have been the same pair that were seen by many on 22 and 23 Apr and that caused our editor to arise early on the 23rd. Another bird was seen at Anderson L., Hamilton Co., on 6 Apr (Burt Shepard fide JD).

Northern Shoveler: Several were in E Story Co. on 6 Mar (TL fide JD).

Canvasback: 50 were at Bays Branch on 1 Mar (MRM) and 600 ne of Larrabee on 4 Mar (MBre).

Ring-necked Duck: 400 were at Forney L. and IPL Ponds on 2 Mar (TB,

SK).

Greater Scaup: Details were given for 1 at L. Macbride on 7 Mar (JPSa), 1 at Willow Sl. on 14 Mar (BLW), 2 at Willow Sl. on 22 Mar (TB et al.), 1 at Colo on 18 Apr (*TL), and 3 at Ankeny Ponds on 27 Apr (*JPSc).

White-winged Scoter: 1 was at Little Wall L. on 10 Apr (*GB).

Common Goldeneye: A female was late at Sweet M. on 26 May (JPSc).

Bufflehead: 2 were still in Appanoose Co. on 8 May (RC).

Hooded Merganser: 2 were at Big M. on 13 Mar (BPr et al.); a peak of 9 were at Hendrickson M. on 19 Mar (CJB, m.ob.); and 1 to 4 were reported from 6 other locations.

Common Merganser: 100 were at Bays Branch on 1 Mar (MRM), with a peak there of 250 on 6 Mar (RC); 650 were at Elm L., Wright Co., on 12 Mar (SD, BC, MNol).

Red-breasted Merganser: 128 were at Saylorville Res. on 9 Apr (SD, BC).

Ruddy Duck: 350 were at Anderson L. on 17 Apr (SD, BC).

Turkey Vulture: Early arrivals were 3 in Van Buren Co. on 3 Mar (JPSa), 1 at Sabula on 13 Mar (PP), and 1 at Booneville on 23 Mar (MDx).

Osprey: A few lingered to 7 May and 1 to 21 May in W Sioux Co. (JV).

Bald Eagle: The usual numbers were reported from many locations. The latest was an imm. at Ingham L. on 17 Apr (HW).

Northern Harrier: A peak of 6 were at Hendrickson M. on 16 Apr (JD, SD); Koenig found only 8 in Poweshiek Co. during the period.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: The most reported was 5 at Ames on 12 Apr (SD).

Cooper's Hawk: 1 to 2 were reported from 11 locations from 13 Mar to 5 May, and 4 were seen at Sweet M. on 16 Apr (RKM) and 3 in W Sioux Co. on 30 Apr (JV).

Northern Goshawk: 3 ad. were documented--15 Mar in Story Co. (*TL), 14 Apr in Pocahontas Co. (*JR), and 16 Apr at Sweet M. (*RKM, *FM); another was reportedly at L. Manawa on 13 Mar (Andy Saunders fide TB).

Red-shouldered Hawk: 10 were reported from widely scattered locations.

Broad-winged Hawk: No waves were reported. Late May birds were 1 in Mills Co. on 24 May (TB, BPa), 2 in Amana Woods on 21 May (FM), and 2 at Ledges S.P. on 28 May (SD, BC).

Swainson's Hawk: Pairs returned to previous nesting sites in Osceola, Black Hawk, and Fayette counties; 5 ad. and 1 imm. were in Fremont Co. on 12 May (BLW); and there were reports from 9 other locations in W and N Iowa from 15 Apr through May.

Red-tailed Hawk: 92 were migrating over Ames on 12 Apr (SD).

Rough-legged Hawk: Late birds were at Montezuma on 3 May (DK) and Coralville Res. on 9 May (TK, TJS).

Golden Eagle: 1 ad. was in Cherokee Co. on 5 Mar (*DBi); 2 imm. at the usual location in Allamakee Co. on 12 Mar (DK); and 1 ad. in Story Co. on 19 Mar (*BPr).

American Kestrel: Numbers appeared in migration--78 on 16 Mar from Centerville to Bedford (1 per mile, RC), 50 on 30 Mar from Cedar Rapids to Decorah (CJB), 42 on 7 Apr over 200 miles (BPr), and 28 on 12 Apr in Hamilton and Wright counties (SD, BC).

Merlin: 3 documented reports--15 Mar in Madison Co. (*EuA), 16 Apr at Sweet M. (*FM, *RKM), and 29 Apr at Big M. (*RKM).

Peregrine Falcon: 1 of 2 reports was documented--14 May at Anderson L., Hamilton Co. (*SD).

Gray Partridge: A pair were out of range in NE Mills Co. on 16 May (BLW); other reports were from Story, Hamilton, Hardin, Bremer, and Fayette counties.

Ruffed Grouse: 3 were drumming at Volga River A. on 25 May (JPSc).

Wild Turkey: 4 were at Backbone S.P. on 17 Apr (BPr et al.).

Yellow Rail: 1 was grounded after a storm, caught, and photographed in Ames on 13 Apr (*SD, *KD, *JD); 1 was seen at Cone M. on 4 May (*GW); and 1 was flushed at Doolittle Prairie on 8 May (*EuA).

King Rail: 3 reports are encouraging for this species which has been relegated to casual status: 6 May at Doolittle Prairie (*JPSc, *SD); 6 May at Sweet M. (*RKM); and 21 May at Big M. (*BPr, *MPr).

Virginia Rail: 10 were at Big M. on 21 May (BPr, MPr, PH).

- Sora:** 2nd and 3rd record early dates were 7 Apr at Anderson L. (Rex Johnson fide JD) and 9 Apr at Swan L., Johnson Co. (MCN, RJH).
- Purple Gallinule:** 1 at South Pond, South Amana, first identified by Lanny Haldy, remained from 16 May to the end of the period and was seen by many (*TK, *JPSc, *PP, *RKM, *FM) (see longer note).
- Common Moorhen:** 1 on 24 Apr at Hendrickson M. (PM) was the only report.
- American Coot:** A brood at Cooper's M. on 29 May was the first recent breeding record for Story Co. (JD, SD).
- Sandhill Crane:** Singles were seen at Little Wall L. on 5 Apr (*JD), e of Hills from 13 to 26 Mar (*TK, m.ob.), and at Sweet M. on 6 May (*RKM). Another report was of 10 e of Oskaloosa on 10 Mar (Bill Ohde fide JD). This species has been moved from casual to regular, and it would seem that details rather than full documentation would suffice to track future sightings.
- Black-bellied Plover:** 1 on 24 Apr in SW Fremont Co. (PP) was the 2nd earliest on record; the latest and second latest records were 4 on 31 May at Ankeny Ponds (JPSc) and 8 on 25 May at Colo (PM).
- Lesser Golden-Plover:** 1 at Cone M. on 20 Mar (TK) ties the 2nd earliest. A peak count was 2,500 at Colo on 21 May (SD, JPSc).
- Semipalmated Plover:** 1 was at L. Manawa by 21 Apr (TB, BPa, SK).
- Piping Plover:** 2 were at Riverton A. on 22 Apr (RKM, m.ob.); 1 to 2 at L. Manawa on 25 and 28 Apr (TB, BJR, SK), and 2 at IPL Ponds from 12 to 22 May (m.ob.).
- Killdeer:** A flock of 42 at Zeiring on 7 Apr were considered late for migrants (TL fide JD).
- American Avocet:** 28 were at Riverton A. on 24 Apr (BPr, m.ob.), 25 at Hendrickson M. on 24 Apr (PM), 10 at Rock Valley on 30 Apr (JV), 3 at L. Manawa on 7 May (TB et al.), and 1 at Colo on 21 May (HZ).
- Greater Yellowlegs:** The earliest report was 30 Mar at Cone M. (TJS).
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** 2 at Cone M. on 20 Mar (TK) tie the 3rd early date. The largest number reported was 55 on 21 and 28 Apr at L. Manawa (TB, SK).
- Willet:** 19 at Riverton A. on 19 Apr (FM, m.ob.) were the earliest and peak. Others in flocks of 1 to 12 were widespread at 10 other locations to 16 May.
- Upland Sandpiper:** 1 to 3 were reported from Appanoose, Story, Madison, Poweshiek, Sioux, and Johnson counties.
- Whimbrel:** Singles at Hendrickson M. on 4 May (*BPr, *MPr, *RRS, *PM, *HZ, *JPSc, *JD) and Coralville Res. on 24 May (*CJB, *JPSc, see longer note) provided a life and/or state bird for many.
- Hudsonian Godwit:** 55 were at Colo on 13 May (HZ). Flocks of 1 to 10 were reported from 10 other locations from 15 Apr to 24 May.
- Marbled Godwit:** Sufficient details were provided for 1 at L. Manawa on 3 May (TB, BPa, SK) and 2 n of Waterloo on 3 May (FM). Several other reports either lacked detail or the details/documentation provided were insufficient for me to be sure of the identification. Although Hudsonian and Marbled godwits are identifiable when standing, I have been fooled enough by winter-plumaged Hudsonians that I always try to flush them for easy identification.
- Ruddy Turnstone:** There were 6 reports of 1 to 3 birds from 22 to 30 May. The 30 May birds at Ankeny Ponds (SD, JPSc) and n of Waterloo (RKM, FM) tie the 2nd latest date.
- Sanderling:** 1 at Cone M. on 4 May (GW); 2 at Larsen M. on 13 May (PM); 1 at Badger Creek L., Madison Co., on 15 May (MDx); several in SW Iowa on 19 May (BLW, WRS); 2 at Coralville Res. on 25 May (JPSc, JH), and up to 13 at Colo on 25 to 30 May (SD, m.ob.).
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 95 at Colo on 30 May (SD, JPSc) were late.
- Western Sandpiper:** 2 reports lack details of identification.
- Least Sandpiper:** 1 in Dallas Co. on 28 May (MDx) is the 3rd latest record.
- White-rumped Sandpiper:** Peak number was 150 at L. Manawa on 7 to 10 May (TB).
- Baird's Sandpiper:** The earliest was 1 at Cone M. on 16 Apr (JPSc); peak

- was 109 at Riverton A. on 24 Apr (JPSc), and the last was 1 at Colo on 25 May (PM).
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** The bird reported in Feb was still at Cone M. on 13 Mar and 4 were there on 20 Mar (TK). The largest flock reported this season was 128 at Cherokee on 8 May (MBre).
- Dunlin:** 1 at Cone M. in basic plumage on 16 Apr (MCN) is the 3rd earliest. Many flocks of 20 to 50 were reported in mid- to late May.
- Stilt Sandpiper:** The peak was 50 at L. Manawa on 12 May (BLW, WRS).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 4 were reported from Riverton A. on 19 May (BLW, WRS).
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** Except for 66 at Colo on 13 May (HZ), not many dowitchers were reported, and all those with details that allowed me to identify the birds are listed. Short-bills were 1 in N Marshall Co. on 15 May (BPr, PH, MPr) and 4 at Ankeny Ponds on 23 May (RL).
- Common Snipe:** A peak of 68 were at Cone M. on 26 Mar (TK). Late birds were 1 at Volga River A. on 25 May (JPSc) and 6 at Sweet M. on 26 May (JPSc). Such late dates suggest the possibility of nesting.
- American Woodcock:** Early birds included 1 at Springbrook S.P. on 1 Mar (DK), 3 at Montezuma on 2 Mar (DK), and 2 at Ames on 7 Mar (Craig Hiezel fide JD). In addition, a record early date was 3 to 4 at Lucas on 24 Feb (Craig Hiezel fide JD). A window kill occurred at Laurens on 4 Apr (RVH).
- Wilson's Phalarope:** 1 at Cone M. on 13 Mar (*TK) was a month earlier than the record early date. Another 1 was early at Sweet M. on 16 Apr (FM, RKM). On 24 Apr, 200 were at Riverton A. (JPSc).
- Red-necked Phalarope:** 2 at Ankeny Ponds on 30 May (SD, JPSc) tie the 3rd latest and were the only ones reported.
- Franklin's Gull:** 2 at L. Manawa on 2 Mar (TB, SK) are the 2nd earliest.
- Bonaparte's Gull:** The first one was at Coralville Res. on 9 Apr (RJH, MCN), and the peak was 20 at L. Manawa on 21 and 25 Apr (TB, SK, BJR).
- Ring-billed Gull:** The peak at Rathbun Res. was 397 on 11 Mar (RC). Many immatures lingered, such as 50 at Red Rock Res. on 30 May (RT).
- Glaucous Gull:** On 5 Mar a 2nd year bird was at Red Rock Res. (*EuA) and an ad. at Coralville Res. (*TK); a 2nd year bird was at Rathbun Res. on 11 Mar (RC); and immature birds previously reported remained at Davenport until 25 Mar (PP) and Bettendorf until 4 Apr (LL fide PP), a record late date for Iowa.
- Caspian Tern:** The peak count was 56 at Little Clear L. on 23 May (RC).
- Common Tern:** Details were provided for all sightings--2 on 4 May at George Wyth S.P. (RKM); 8 at Rathbun Res. on 14 May (RC); 2 at Amana L. on 26 May (CJB); and 2 at Lock and Dam 14 on 29 May (LL fide PP).
- Forster's Tern:** Early sightings were 13 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RC), 17 Apr at L. Odessa (GW), and 20 Apr at Ventura M. (Fred Heinz fide JLH). On 7 May, 80 were at L. Manawa (TB).
- Black Tern:** 2 were early at Centerville on 1 May (RC); 100 were at Forney L. on 13 May (TB, BPd) and Johnson/Jones counties on 14 May (TK); and hundreds were in SW Iowa on 19 May (TB).
- Ringed Turtle-Dove:** 1 was in Davenport on 1 May (Brian and Cory Blevins fide PP).
- Black-billed Cuckoo:** The earliest reported was on 11 May at Pine L. (BPr); other reporters indicated few or none were seen.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 1 on 7 May in SE Dallas Co. (MDx) ties the record early date. Reporters commented on scarcity and lateness.
- Common Barn-Owl:** 2 or more birds were seen in Shenandoah the evening of 23 Apr and morning of 24 Apr (RKM, FM, *JPSc). It was Joe Schaufenbuel, however, rather than the owls, that caused some of us to exit the motel in our night clothes in a futile attempt to see the owls. On 29 Apr in Ringgold Co. a native Barn Owl flew around the area where captive Barn Owls were being fed (*Mel Moe). A Barn Owl found dead near Ottumwa by Jack McClure is now at Iowa State University (JD).
- Great Horned Owl:** An Arctic Horned Owl was seen in NE Marshall Co. on

2 Mar (*PBr).

Long-eared Owl: 1 was at Larchwood, Lyon Co., on 16 Mar (Dolly Zangger fide DCH).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Singles were at Clear L. on 26 Mar (JLH), Ledges S.P. on 4 Apr (Todd Walrod fide JD), and Ames on 10 Apr (JD et al.).

Common Nighthawk: Singles at Orange City on 27 Apr (GB fide JV) and in N Marshall Co. on 30 Apr (SD et al.) are record early birds.

Chuck-will's-widow: The only reports were from usual locations in Mills and Fremont counties.

Chimney Swift: The first arrived on 24 Apr in Des Moines (RL) and Ames (JD) beating Laurens (RVH) by a day.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Up to 7 were seen by various reporters.

Red-headed Woodpecker: There was a massive influx of migrants at Ames on 5 and 6 May (JD, SD).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: As usual, only a few were seen, all in late May except for 1 on 11 May at Pine L. (BPr).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 21 were reported from 10 locations, with 8 singing at Volga River A. on 25 May (JPSc).

Acadian Flycatcher: The only reports were from Lacey-Keosauqua and Ledges state parks.

Alder Flycatcher: 18 from 7 locations from 26 to 30 May, with 7 in Fremont Co. on 28 May (DK).

Willow Flycatcher: The earliest was on 16 May s of Iowa City (TJS); there were few other reports.

Least Flycatcher: 1 in Fremont Co. on 31 May (BLW).

Vermillion Flycatcher: 1 at Sioux Center on 6 and 7 May was photographed (*JV, *GB), the first record for Iowa (see longer note).

Western Kingbird: 1 was at Ventura M. on 11 May (Kurt Baker and Al Hancock fide JLH); all others were from the normal range in W Iowa.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 1 was seen in NE Madison Co. on 15 May (*MDx).

Purple Martin: 2 to 3 in NW Davenport on 3 Mar (Bob Dau fide PP) set a record early date.

Tree Swallow: 6 on 15 Mar at Big Sand Mound Preserve (PP) are the earliest on record; 4 were also early in Allamakee Co. on 22 Mar (Alan Branham fide JPSc).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 1 at Riverton A. on 13 Apr (RC) was early.

Cliff Swallow: Iowa City birds arrived on 25 Apr (TJS), a 3rd earliest date.

Blue Jay: Up to 500 were migrating in Story Co. on 6 May (SD), and flocks of 6 to 8 were still migrating in SW Iowa on 31 May (BLW).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 at Waucoma on 3 Apr (JPSc) were the only ones reported.

Brown Creeper: 30 at Cherokee during the season were more than usual (MBre). The last was at Ames on 13 May (SD).

Carolina Wren: 1 remained at Cherokee during the entire period (DBi); another was at Pine L. on 13 May (MPr fide BPr).

Winter Wren: 10 were in Poweshiek Co. on 16 Apr (DK); 1 to 4 were seen at 9 other locations up to 19 Apr.

Sedge Wren: The peak was 28 at Doolittle Prairie on 20 May (JPSc).

Marsh Wren: The peak was 25 at Doolittle Prairie on 20 May (JPSc).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 101 were at Ames from 3 Apr to 8 May, with peak of 35 on 13 Apr (PM); 48 were in SE Iowa from 2 to 15 Apr (RC).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 379 were at Ames from 13 Apr to 20 May, with peak of 25 on 13 Apr (PM).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 15 were at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 30 Apr (JPSc). Two each were found in Floyd (PK) and Mills (TB) counties.

Eastern Bluebird: Widely reported in small numbers.

Veery: 1 was noted at Larrabee in NW Iowa on 11 May (MBre).

Swainson's Thrush: Larger than normal numbers were encountered by several observers, for example, 40 in Johnson/Iowa counties on 14 May (TK).

Hermit Thrush: A peak of 23 were at Ames on 15 Apr (PM).

- Gray Catbird: 1 wintered at Decorah to 15 Apr (Alan Branhagen fide JPSc).
- Northern Mockingbird: There were 12 reports from late Apr and May including the following locations north of Interstate 80: Sioux Center (JVD), Cherokee (MBre), Ames (Don Farrar and KD fide JD, PM), Grammar Grove P. (BPr), and Muskrat Sl. (TK, CJB, TJS).
- Brown Thrasher: 1 at Larchwood on 7 Mar ate catfood in the snow (DCH).
- Water Pipit: 1 to 3 were reported from 7 locations on widely varying dates: 3 on 13 Mar at Cone M. (TK) were the 2nd earliest, and 1 on 19 May at Cherokee (MBre) and 2 on 15 May in N Marshall Co. (BPr, PH, MPr) were the 2nd and 3rd latest on record.
- Cedar Waxwing: 128 were still in Ames on 26 May (SD).
- Northern Shrike: 1 was reported n of Waukon on 21 Mar (JPSc).
- Loggerhead Shrike: 4 to 8 for the period were noted by each of 5 active birders; this probably reflects small numbers of birds widely scattered over the state.
- White-eyed Vireo: 9 reports of 1 to 3 birds after 8 May, the more unusual from Laurens on 18 May (RVH), NW Fremont Co. on 31 May (*BLW), Pine L. on 13 May (BPr, PH, NS), and George Wyth S.P. on 25 May (RKM).
- Bell's Vireo: Reports from Louisa, Johnson, Dallas, Mills, and Fremont counties probably do not reflect adequately the frequency of this species.
- Solitary Vireo: Birds on 27 Apr at Ames (SD) and Iowa City (TK) were early.
- Yellow-throated Vireo: 2 were at Sharon Bluff on 30 Apr (RC).
- Philadelphia Vireo: Reports were from Iowa City, Des Moines, Ames, and Fremont and Mills counties from 6 May at Ames (PM) to 27 May in Mills Co. (BLW).
- Blue-winged Warbler: A completed nest without eggs at Amana Woods on 21 May had 6 eggs on 28 May (FM). A Brewster's hybrid was at Ames on 12 May (HZ).
- Tennessee Warbler: 1 was late at Ames on 31 May (JPSc).
- Orange-crowned Warbler: 133 were found in Ames from 26 Apr to 18 May (PM).
- Nashville Warbler: 1 was early at Ames on 26 Apr (ISU class fide JD).
- Northern Parula: Early migrants were found on 29 Apr at Cherokee (DBi) and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPSa) and on 30 Apr at Sharon Bluff (RC).
- Yellow Warbler: 15 were at Sunken Grove on 23 May (RC).
- Magnolia Warbler: 2 were late at Ames on 30 May (PM).
- Cape May Warbler: Reports from 14 locations are more than usual; 1 was early at Liscomb on 6 May (BPr); 20 at Sweet M. on 13 May (RKM, FM) were most unusual; and 1 was late at Little Clear L. on 23 May (RC). In addition to the NW Iowa sighting at Little Clear L., there were C Iowa sightings at Des Moines (MDx), Elkhart (DDM), Ames (PM), and Anderson L. (SD, BC, MNol).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1 record tying early bird was at Ames on 6 May (SD, JPSc), and a record late bird was at Credit Island on 21 May (PP). Others were at Sweet M. on 14 May (FM, RuH) and Marble Rock on 20 May (PK).
- Yellow-rumped Warbler: 2 were late at Sweet M. on 26 May (JPSc).
- Black-throated Green Warbler: 1 was at Des Moines on 1 May (RL).
- Yellow-throated Warbler: The only report other than those at the usual locations in Van Buren Co. and Ledges S.P. was from Greene, Butler Co., on 17 May (JM).
- Pine Warbler: Singles were at Jewell on 13 May (*JPSc), at Ames on 18 May (*PM), and at George Wyth S.P. on 18 May (*RKM).
- Prairie Warbler: A male was singing at Sweet M. on 12 May (*FM) and another thought to be a female was there the next day (*FM, *RKM).
- Bay-breasted Warbler: A record late bird was at Sharon Bluff on 31 May (RC).
- Cerulean Warbler: 1 was at Stone P. in NW Iowa on 21 May (*DE); singles were also noted at Ames on 7 May (PM) and Marble Rock on 13 May (PK).

- Prothonotary Warbler: 1 at Sweet M. on 30 Apr is the 2nd earliest (RKM, FM, RuH). Singles were reported from C Iowa at Ames (PM), Ledges S.P. (SD), Anderson L. (SD), and Pine L. (BPr et al.)
- Worm-eating Warbler: 1 was feeding on the grass at George Wyth S.P. on 8 May (RKM, FM); others were at Ames (PM), Pine L. (MPr fide BPr), w of Coralville (TJS), Wildcat Den S.P. (L., B., and C. Blevins fide PP), and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPSa).
- Ovenbird: 3 were at Larrabee in NW Iowa on 19 May (MBre).
- Louisiana Waterthrush: Besides the usual locations, 1 was at Ames on 5 May (PM) and 1 at Pine L. on 9 May (MPr fide BPr).
- Kentucky Warbler: 1 was found at Pony Creek A., Mills Co., in W Iowa on 25 May (TB, BPa); C Iowa locations included Des Moines (RL, MDx) and Nevada (window kill, HZ).
- Connecticut Warbler: Usually sightings can be listed individually, but this year there were reports from 10 locations from 13 May at Hickory Hill P. (TJS) to 26 May at Ames (SD) and NE Mills Co. (*BLW), with a peak of 8 at Waterloo on 22 May (RKM, FM).
- Mourning Warbler: 1 on 7 May at Dudgeon L. (RKM, FM) is the 2nd earliest; a peak of 25 to 30 were at Waterloo on 22 May (RKM, FM); and the latest were on 31 May in SW Iowa (BLW) and Sioux Center (JV).
- Hooded Warbler: 4 males were territorial in the Amana Woods on 21 May (FM, m.ob). Other sightings were 2 at Dudgeon L. on 7 May (RKM, FM), 1 at Hickory Hill P. on 12 May (TK, TJS), and 1 at Grammar Grove P. on 19 May (BPr).
- Canada Warbler: 4 were noted at Des Moines on 19 May (RL) and 3 at Ames on 26 May (SD).
- Yellow-breasted Chat: Reports were from Hickory Hill P. (TJS), Amana Woods (BPr, MPr, PH), Grammar Grove P. (BPr), and Sweet M. (RKM, FM).
- Summer Tanager: Birds at usual locations included a pair at Waubonsie S.P. on 6 May (RR) and 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 7 May (RC). Birds at unusual locations included an imm. at Union on 9 May (*RRS), a female and an imm. male at Rush L., Palo Alto Co., on 13 May (*RVH), and a male at Sweet M. on 13 May (*FM, *RKM).
- Scarlet Tanager: NW Iowa birds were at Cherokee on 8 May (MBre) and Little Clear L. on 23 May (RC).
- Blue Grosbeak: None reported outside of normal range along the western border.
- Dickcissel: 1 was early at Iowa City on 29 Apr (JPSa, JC).
- Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 of the spotted race was at Laurens on 11 May (RVH).
- American Tree Sparrow: The last was noted on 20 Apr at Hendrickson M. (PM).
- Clay-colored Sparrow: Late sightings were 1 at Sunken Grove on 23 May (RC) and 1 at Riverton A. on 19 May (BLW).
- Field Sparrow: 1 arrived at Rathbun Res. on 20 Mar (RC).
- Lark Sparrow: 1 at Hickory Hill P. on 21 Apr was an unusual location (TJS).
- Savannah Sparrow: 1 at Badger Creek L., Madison Co., on 4 Mar (MDx) set a record early date.
- Henslow's Sparrow: 1 was at the usual location in Hayden Prairie on 30 May (FM).
- Le Conte's Sparrow: 2 on 30 Mar at Badger Creek L. (MDx) are the 3rd earliest; a peak of 7 were at Forney L. on 22 Apr (FM, m.ob.); and late dates were all records--4 on 21 May at Big M. (BPr, MPr, PH), 1 on 20 May at Doolittle Prairie (JPSa), and 1 on 16 May at Rush L., Palo Alto Co. (MBre).
- Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1 was seen in Marshall Co. on 22 May (*RRS).
- Fox Sparrow: Early migrants were near Booneville on 5 Mar (MDx) and at Wexford, Allamakee Co., on 12 Mar (FLe).
- Song Sparrow: 100 were at Hickory Hill P. on 10 Apr (TJS).
- Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 on 8 Apr near Booneville (MDx) was early; the last were at Ames on 25 May (PM) and Sweet M. on 26 May (JPSa). One was at a feeder in Fairfield from 3 to 18 Feb (*DCP).

- White-crowned Sparrow:** 1 at Volga River A. on 25 May (JPSc) is the 2nd latest on record.
- Harris' Sparrow:** Singles at Des Moines on 26 May (CML fide RL) and Rush L., Osceola Co., on 25 May (MBre) are the 2nd and 3rd latest.
- Dark-eyed Junco:** The last date was 30 Apr at Ames (Burt Shepard fide JD), Marshall Co. (SD, et al.), and Sioux Center (JV).
- Lapland Longspur:** Massive numbers were seen in Mar and Apr with a peak of 10,000 on 17 Apr in Story Co. said to be a somewhat conservative estimate (PM). Four flocks in O'Brien Co. on 15 Mar were estimated at 1,500 (DCH), and 1,015 were seen in Appanoose Co. from 27 Mar to 2 Apr (RC). The last were 2 at Ankeny Ponds on 27 Apr (JPSc).
- Smith's Longspur:** 1 to 200 birds were found at 8 locations in 5 counties from 9 Mar to 27 Apr: Muscatine Co.--20 on 9 Mar 5 s of Nichols (*CJB), 6 on 13 Mar near the Johnson Co. line 4 s of route 6 in the same field as last year (TJS et al. fide TK), and 8 on 20 Mar e of Conesville (*TK); Johnson Co.--200 on 12 Mar 3 e of Hills and 33 there on 27 Apr (**TK, *TJS); Montgomery Co.--up to 50 on 18 to 22 Mar 4 n of Red Oak (*RKM, *BLW, *TB); Story Co.--1 on 23 Mar at Doolittle Prairie (*JPSc) and 8 on 17 Apr e of Larsen M. (*PM); and Appanoose Co.--100 on 27 Mar 5 w of Centerville (RC). Field surveys were reported from 5 counties: Boone Co.--18 trips through a field from 16 Mar to 25 Apr yielded no longspurs (Mrs RL); Pocahontas Co.--8 people covered 70 acres on 9 Apr without luck (RVH); Appanoose Co.--1 of 4 trips was successful (RC); Louisa Co.--1 field near Cone M. had no Longspurs (RC); and Johnson Co.--both Smith's and Lapland longspurs were in a field e of Hills, and a Chestnut-collared Longspur was also found there later in the day. How many years with data like this will it take to prove that Smith's Longspur is regular in Iowa?
- Chestnut-collared Longspur:** The second documented report of this species for Iowa was from the same field e of Hills in Johnson Co. that contained Smith's and Lapland longspurs on 12 Mar (*CAK).
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 1 at Cone M. on 13 Apr (GW) represents a 2nd earliest date; 1 was at Ames on 15 Apr (TL fide JD). On 29 May there were 8 nests at Larson M. and 6 at Cooper's M. in Story Co. (SD).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** Reports with convincing detail were 4 at Cone M. on 9 Mar (CJB), 4 at Hickory Hill P. on 18 Mar (TJS), 15 near Sidney on 27 Mar (PP, MLP, WRS), and 1 on 6 May at Weise Sl. (PP, LL), the latter a second latest date.
- Great-tailed Grackle:** A pair was reported along Interstate 29, 3 mi. n of Glenwood, Mills Co., on 19 May (*TB, *BP). This is the first report from Iowa.
- Orchard Oriole:** There were 7 reports from E and C Iowa, the first on 5 May at Big Creek S.P. (RL).
- Purple Finch:** Peak numbers were 114 from mid-Mar to mid-Apr at Cherokee (DBi), 57 on 16 Apr at Liscomb (BPr), and 27 at Ames on 19 Apr (PM). The latest were at Rathbun Res. on 14 May (RC) and Fairfield on 9 May (DCP).
- House Finch:** Males appeared at feeders in Liscomb on 15 Apr (*BPr) and Davenport on 1 May (*PP).
- Pine Siskin:** 1 was at Ames on 3 Apr (Bob Moorman fide JD). Another winter report was from Fairfield on 11 Jan (DCP).

CONTRIBUTORS

Eugene Armstrong, Booneville; Carl J. Bendorf, Iowa City; Dick Bierman, Cherokee; Gordon Brand, Sioux Center; Tanya Bray, Omaha NE; Marion Brewer, Cherokee; George Brown, Ames; Raymond Cummins, Pocahontas; Susan E. Davis, Ames; James Dinsmore, Ames; Steve Dinsmore, Ames; Mark Dixon, Waukee; Kraig Downs, Ames; David Ewert, Des Moines; James L. Hansen, Clear Lake; Ronald V. Harms, Laurens; Douglas C. Harr, Larchwood; Richard J. Hollis, Iowa City; Robert W. Howe, Des Moines; Thomas Kent, Iowa City; Calvin A. Knight, Iowa City; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Darwin Koenig, Montezuma; Rene Laubach, Des Moines; Ted LaGrange, Ames; Fred Leshner, La Cross WI; Fred J.

Lorenzen, Davenport; Mrs. Russell Laub, Rippey; Paul Martsching, Ames; Jeri McMahon, Ft. Gibson OK; Mel Moe, Mt. Ayr; Francis L. Moore, Waterloo; D. Dean Mosman, Elkhart; Mary R. Musgrove, Des Moines; Robert K. Myers, Waterloo; Michael C. Newlon, Iowa City; William and Becky Otto, Omaha NE; Babs Padelford, Bellevue NE; Loren Padelford, Bellevue NE; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Diane C. Porter, Fairfield; John M. Powell, Mason City; Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb; Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb; Richard C. Rosche, Chadron NE; Joyce Rigby, Laurens; James P. Sandrock, Iowa City; Joseph P. Schaufenbuel, Ames; Charlotte Scott, Seymour; Ramona R. Sommerlot, Union; Thomas J. Staudt, Iowa City; Robert Thornburg, Pleasantville; John Van Dyk, Sioux Center; Robert Walton, Peosta; Gerald White, Muscatine; Harold White, Estherville; Patricia Williams, Hinton; Barbara L. Wilson, Hastings; and Hank Zalatel, Colo.

OTHER OBSERVERS

Eloise Armstrong (EuA, MDx); Barney Cook (SD); John Cordell (JPSa); Mark Dinsmore (JD); Timothy L. Dwyer (GW); Jan Greer (TB); Phyllis J. Harris (BPr); Russell Hays (FM, RKM); James Huntington (JPSa); James Kovanda (TB); Sandy Kovanda (TB); Larry Linder (PP); Christyna M. Laubach (RL); Marc Lund (TB); Richard D. Mooney (MDx); Mike Nolan (SD); Mary Lou Petersen (PP); B. J. Rose (TB); Clark Scott (PP); W. Ross Silcock (m.ob.1); Nancy Slife (BPr); Tom Stone (RKM); Dennis Thompson (MDx); and Melba Wigg (TB).

COMMENT

The amount of material received for this reporting period was much greater than ever before. There were 41 field reports submitted by 42 contributors, documentations from 16 additional persons, and 1 separate Smith's Longspur survey report to account for the 58 individuals listed under contributors. There were 90 documentations for 65 birds of 39 species from 41 people. I thank those who typed or printed in black ink on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper. That, along with much appreciated help from Carl Bendorf in compiling data, and very prompt reporting (all except 3 reports received by the weekend of 4-5 June), allowed me to compile and write the report on time.

I tried a new method of compiling my own field report, which, coincidentally, was recommended in the most recent Am. Birds as a means of speeding up reporting. After each birding trip I wrote significant findings on a report form sheet, so that, at the end of the period all I had to do was translate the data to fresh reporting sheets in taxonomic order, deleting less important findings. This eliminated the drudgery of trying to dig out sightings that seemed important 3 months before.

Reports for summer and fall are due on 1 Aug and 1 Dec, respectively. Reports received after the 7th of the month will be filed but not used in compiling the report. Any outstanding sightings will be mentioned in the subsequent report.

One of the most difficult aspects of writing the field reports is referencing the birds to the observers. In this report, I have listed under Contributors all those who wrote reports, documentations, or surveys. Under Other Observers are listed those who birded with those who wrote reports, with the contributors initials in parentheses. Only those other observers who are cited or contributed to the data used in general statements about species distribution are listed. Documented observations are indicated by an '*' before the documentors initials, and, in general, only documentors are cited for documented birds. Persons whose sightings were reported secondhand by contributors are cited only in the text, using their full name if they are not also a contributor or other observer. Secondhand information is indicated by the word "fide" between the observer and contributor. Fide means "to entrust to." It implies that the contributor is satisfied with the evidence for and accuracy of the report, including date and place.

I would like to welcome 3 new contributors. Diane Porter of Fairfield,

recently displaced from California, added input from sparsely covered SE Iowa. Mark Dixon of Waukee sent much needed information from the Des Moines area. Steve Dinsmore, who has more time to bird than his father, rivaled other Story Co. contributors (9 in all) in providing extensive migration data. Also appreciated are those who sent individual documentations. Jim Hansen sent important observations from a log book kept by Iowa Conservation Commission personnel. Sojourners from Oklahoma (Jeri McMahon) and W Nebraska (Richard Rosche) contributed their Iowa sightings.

Unfortunately, we are also losing some birders. Rene Laubach is moving to a museum position in Massachusetts, and John Van Dyk, after adding a new bird to the state list, will be researching in West Germany for 1 or 2 years, leaving Gordon Brand in charge of Sioux Center birds.

Finally, I would like to apologize for any errors I have made. I omitted Mary Musgrove from the contributors in the last report. John Robinson has picked up translation errors, and I suspect there have been more. Carl Bendorf has been hawking my spelling errors. Please let me know about errors; with the vast amount of material to compile quickly, I am unable to check it all perfectly.

If I failed to mention a sighting you considered important, it may be due to my not selecting it, to my not being convinced by the details, or to my sending it to the Records Committee for evaluation. In selecting from the large number of observations reported, I look for rarity, unusual dates, unusual numbers, unusual locations, and fill in with data that does a good job of substantiating normal distribution and frequency. Material sent to the Records Committee includes documentations for all accidental species and selected documentations of casual and regular species that are seen at unusual times. I have a tough time deciding whether to report birds before they are sent to the Records Committee; my tendency is to become more conservative. I hope everyone realizes that nonacceptance by the Records Committee does not mean a bird was not seen and identified, but rather, that the evidence presented to the Committee was not entirely convincing.

General Notes

Whimbrel in Johnson County — At approximately 10:30 a.m. on 24 May 1983, I was scanning the edge of a large flooded field about $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile north of Swan Lake in northwest Johnson County. Several hundred yards to the west I spotted a very large shorebird flying low over the water. After it landed I was able to see that it was generally light brown in color with a strongly marked head and a very long decurved bill. These details indicated that I was observing a Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*).

As the bird stood on the muddy shore of the field it allowed me to approach within 20 yards. With a 20X telescope I noted the following marks:

Large shorebird profile with relatively long legs and neck. The posture was erect with an estimated standing height of 12 to 16 inches as compared to nearby weeds. The throat, neck, back, wings, and tail were all a fairly uniform mottled and streaked light brown color. The belly was whitish with some flecks of brown on the sides below the folded wings. The bill length was at least twice the length of the head and was distinctly downcurved. The bill was black with a greyish cast at the base. The head was very strongly marked with a dark brown stripe through and behind the upper half of the dark eye, a lighter superciliary stripe, and a dark brown crown divided with a thin light median stripe. The legs were blackish.

I studied the bird for perhaps ten minutes and left without flushing it. About half a dozen other area birders were able to relocate the Whimbrel during the afternoon. At about 3 p.m., a heavy thunderstorm began to build and the Whimbrel started to flinch with each loud crack of thunder. At the sound of an extra loud

thunderclap the Whimbrel startled into the air and flew directly out of sight to the north. CARL J. BENDORF, 825 7th Ave., Iowa City, IA. 52240.

Purple Gallinule in Iowa County — On 16 May 1983 Bruce Trumpold of Middle Amana reported a probable gallinule at the South Amana Pond in northeast Iowa County, Iowa. The South Amana Pond is formed by a large man-made dam across a stream in a wooded valley. Much of the shoreline is virtually enclosed by thick timber and understory.

At 6:30 on the evening of the 16th I was fighting my way through the thickets of poison ivy, gooseberry, raspberry, and multiflora rose along the west shore of the pond. I hoped that this effort would reward me with a view of what I assumed would be a Common Moorhen. Just when anticipation was fading into disappointment, I suddenly flushed a dark, pigeon-sized bird from the shore into a tree about 10 feet above the ground. As I approached to a closest distance of 15 feet, it rather casually walked, hopped, and flew higher into the surrounding trees, reaching a distance of 35 feet or more above the ground. I could clearly see its long, bright-yellow legs and enormous, chicken-like feet. When it walked along a branch it regularly flicked up its short, stubby tail to display white undertail coverts. Its beak was like that of a coot, red with a yellow tip. Above the beak, on the forehead, was a dull white plate. When the bird reached the upper branches of the trees it emerged into the direct sunlight, which revealed the iridescent purple hue of its belly and breast.

I observed the bird in the tree for 5-10 minutes, left to check the field guides, and returned one hour later to startle it from the shore into a tree once again, and confirm that it was indeed a Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*).

Thanks both to the bird's cooperative manners and the success of the Iowa Birdline, the Purple Gallinule has been observed by over 50 people and been the subject of many photographs. The bird is still present at this date, 7 June.

During the day the Purple Gallinule regularly forages for food, working up and down the west shore of the pond where the undergrowth is most dense and meets the water's edge. It usually walks along the shoreline or on fallen logs in the water. Sometimes it wades into shallow water, but seems to prefer to stay out of it. To my knowledge, it has never been observed swimming. When cautious it slinks into the undergrowth, but when alarmed it seeks refuge in the branches of trees and shrubs, 6-15 feet above ground.

The Purple Gallinule is an accidental visitor to Iowa. If accepted by the IOU Records Committee, this occurrence would be only the sixth unquestioned record of the species in Iowa, and perhaps the first to allow such extensive observation of the bird and its behavior (See Dinsmore and Graham, "Purple Gallinule in Iowa" IBL 49:87-88, 1979). — LANNY HALDY, Middle Amana, IA. 52307

Vermilion Flycatcher in North-west Iowa — On Friday afternoon, 6 May, 1983, my nephew Mike Van Dyk, who graduated from Dordt College that morning, and I discovered a male Vermilion Flycatcher in a large open farmyard at the east side of Sioux Center. This farm area consists of a variety of habitat, including wet bottomlands transversed by a creek flowing through a fairly open stand of black willows. Broken limbs and snags are scattered throughout this wet section of the farm.

The bird did not make life difficult for observers: it perched on low snags and broken wire fences by the creek among the willows, and behaved in characteristically flycatcher fashion as it fluttered upwards to catch insects and return to its perches. Some phone calls soon brought about six additional observers who had opportunity to leisurely study, at times from distances as close as 20 feet, the bird's conspicuous and unmistakable field marks: brilliant red head and underparts, black line patch through the eye, dusky dark wings, back, and tail, and typical

flycatcher behavior.

That evening a cold front moved through our area, producing heavy rain and strong winds. By early morning the rain ceased and the sky cleared, though the winds remained strong. At 6:30 a.m. Mike and I returned to the wet bottomlands of the farm and observed the bird once more at close range. But by noon it had disappeared, and we did not see it again. However, two weeks later, on Friday, 20 May, my colleague Ken Venhuizen, who lives in the outskirts at the north side of Sioux Center, called me and reported observing the flycatcher in his backyard that very morning. He described the bird in detail. There is no question that his observation and identification were accurate.

At its first appearance on 6 May the Vemrilion Flycatcher was photographed by Gordon Brand, one of our best birders in this area, and by my brother Jan Van Dyk of Canada who happened to be visiting here. Complete documentation of the sighting and photographs have been submitted to Thomas Kent, field editor of *Iowa Bird Life*. — DR. JOHN VAN DYK, 736 East 1st Street, Sioux Center, Iowa 51250

Swamp Sparrow Nest at Sweet Marsh — On May 26, 1983 the author found an active Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) nest in the eastern section of Sweet Marsh, Bremer County. The nest was found when adult was flushed from the nest which was located on the ground in a wet area of cattail and sedges. The nest contained four blue eggs which were warm to the touch. In most ways the structure and dimensions were similar to the nest reported by Rex R. Johnson at Dewey's Pasture (IBL 52:128-9). The Swamp Sparrow is a common summer resident at Sweet Marsh, however this is the first nesting record for this location — JOSEPH P. SCHAUFENBUEL, 924 Pammel Ct., Ames, Iowa

Book Reviews

Seabirds — An Identification Guide — Peter Harrison — Houghton-Mifflin Co., Boston, MA — 448 p., 88 color plates, 324 dist. maps — 1983 — \$29.95.

The term seabirds usually covers all species usually encountered well away from land with regularity. Although this book covers seaducks rather superficially there are many other good references for them. Other species found at sea are covered. The author-artist has spent over ten years on this book and result is by far the best reference for these 312 species to date. Of primary interest to Iowa birders will be the gulls. The author attempts to cover all distinctly plumaged races in both plates and text. With this book the great difficulty in the identification of Iowa's first Mew Gull would have been greatly alleviated. Most species are illustrated in flight and perched or swimming. The text includes a complete description of the various plumages with racial differences noted. The flight, habits and jizz, a British term which means the features of a bird which make it elegant, dainty, etc., but are not plumage characteristics, are covered. Notes on voice, distribution, movements and similar species round out the species accounts. The maps indicate breeding, non-breeding and migratory patterns. While hardly pocket-sized this guide is a must for serious birders throughout the world and any birder who travels, especially by boat. ed.

Finding Birds in the National Capital Area — Claudia Wilds — Smithsonian Inst. Press, Wash. D.C. — 215 p., 28 maps — 1983 — \$10.95 paperbound.

This well written finding guide covers Maryland, Delaware, D.C., and about half of Virginia as well as mentioning some spots in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and North Carolina. It begins with a species list giving status, general habitat and period of occurrence. For each major location the better spots are listed and maps

are included as needed for locations which may be obscure on a general road map. A road map should be used with the book. A special feature is a discussion of nearby pelagic trips, hawk migration sites, and finding owls. Completely indexed, it is also interspersed with some fine black-and-white illustrations by Doreen Cartin. ed.

A Birder's Guide to Churchill — Jame A. Lane and Bonnie Chartier — L & P Press, Denver — 62 p., many photos and maps — 1983 — paperbound, \$5.50.

IOU members who were fortunate enough to hear and see Dr. Erv Klass present his excellent program on his research experiences at Churchill last year at the spring convention have had a good introduction to this area. Probably all serious birders have used Lane birders' guides, but for the novice these books will make your first visit as productive as many tours. The books present a series of maps with detailed directions and birding highlights, also included is a bar graph for status and period of occurrence and a species list for locating the area specialties. This addition to the series, the 8th L. & P. book, maintains the high standard. The S.E. Arizona book has been revised in 1983 also. ed.

Birds of Tropical America — Alexander F. Skutch — U. of Texas Press, Austin — 320 p., 37 line drawings and 32 b & w photos — 1983 — \$29.95.

Skutch published many life history studies in various journals in the 1940s, 50s and 60s, as well as his six life history studies books. This volume presents 34 of the life history accounts updated and rewritten to some extent for a more general readership. It covers non-passerine birds featuring several pigeons, trogons, motmots and toucans. For each species the author describes the habitat, plumage, habits, nesting cycle and occasionally very specific details on a particularly well studied nest. It makes available to a wide readership work buried in the literature and is a fine addition to Skutch's literature. ed.

A Guide to Bird Behavior, Vol. 1 — Donald W. Stokes — Little, Brown & Co., Boston — 336 p., 85 b & w illus — 1983 — \$8.95, paperbound.

People who become interested in birds through feeders often ask what they might do that could contribute something of value to ornithology. This book is a good source for an answer to that perplexing problem. The author focuses on the habits of 25 common species. For each species a behavior calendar indicating the expected season for each activity is presented. Following this are display guides explaining behavior and descriptions of the behavior of the nesting cycle sequence. All this suggest some areas where general knowledge is incomplete as well as explaining some behavior which seems very strange to the novice. ed.

Wading Birds of the World — Eric & Richard Soothill — Bandford Press, U.K, dist. by Sterling Pub. Co., N.Y. — 334 p., 96 color photos, 70 line drawings — 1982 — \$29.95.

This book provides a nice, light coverage of the various herons, cranes, shorebirds and storks. For each species the text provides description, characteristics, behavior, habitat, food, voice, display, breeding data, and distribution. It is not useful as a field guide. ed.

YOU CAN'T HEAR THE BIRDS?

The purpose of this note is to find out how many birders, who can't hear birds well, would be interested in a "black box" that would dramatically improve this hearing. A very capable audiologist has expressed as interest in developing such a device. He has asked me to find out if there is sufficient interest in this to warrant the development effort.

If you are interested, please send me a postal card. You are not under any obligation. Charles T. Clark, Star Route No. 1, Box 442-D, Rockport, Texas 78382.